

Minutes of Meeting
Idaho Panhandle Forest Briefing
February 20, 2015
10:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart, Commissioner Dan Green and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Idaho Panhandle National Forest Supervisor Mary Farnsworth, Acting Deputy District Rangers Kevin Knesek and Ryan Foote, Deputy Forest Supervisor Marcario Herrera, and Vegetation Staff Officer Carol McKenzie, Natural Resource Advisory Board Chairman Rusty Shepherd, and Deputy Clerk Meshell Missler.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.
- B. Introductions:** There were no introductions made.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:**

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Supervisor Mary Farnsworth said the Region 1 National Forest region is from the Canadian border to south of St. Maries, and encompasses about 2 ½ million acres. Ms. Farnsworth said managing a forest can include timber management, recreation, minerals and anything related to land ownership.

Ms. Farnsworth explained to the Board that there are some opportunities coming up in the future with the Timber Management Program. Ms. Farnsworth requested the Board's support at a meeting on February 26, 2015 that will allow multiple counties to give their input on future timber management issues. Ms. Farnsworth said she would like the National Resource Advisory Board and the National Forest Ranger Districts to get together after the February 26, 2015 meeting to discuss priorities.

Natural Resource Advisory Board Chairman Rusty Shepherd said he would like 5 counties to meet before the collaborative groups meet to discuss what the land use priorities are of each County.

Ms. Farnsworth stated the Forest Service is only capable of harvesting 45 million board feet with her current staffing, and the only way to harvest more timber would be to receive a 3 year commitment for additional staffing. The Commissioners agreed this was a national legislation issue to be directed to the United States Congress.

Ms. Farnsworth requested the Board's support at the meeting on February 26. The Board expressed their support; Commissioner Eberlein said he would attend the meeting.

- F. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Meshell Missler, Deputy Clerk
